

## HHS/CDC Posts Interim SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination Guidance Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services, and the CDC which is one of its major agencies, have sent direction to all the states

The SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Guidance Plan,<sup>1</sup> posted by HHS/CDC, is marked as 'interim' and cautions are appropriately placed throughout the document indicating that some guidance is only provisional since they don't have final answers related to certain aspects of the processes (e.g. parts of the storage and handling). This means that changes are likely to the guidance and there are still parts that need to be more detailed or completed. The states were all charged with providing provisional plans for a roll-out of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine by November 1 with distribution to possibly start sometime soon after that.

However, First Responder agencies, particularly those likely in part of the initial group being offered vaccination should have a say in, or at least be aware of, state & local plans for setting up vaccination for their locality and agency(ies). This gives them the ability to weigh in on how this program affects their agency and personnel. The current document suggests that this first Phase 1 A (aka Tier 1 A) group includes "healthcare personnel (i.e. paid and unpaid personnel working in healthcare settings, which may include vaccinators, pharmacy staff, ancillary staff, school nurses, and EMS personnel) who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and unable to work from home," (excerpted from the Guidance Plan,<sup>1</sup> pages 14 & 15).

It is also important to use the available guidance and begin their own planning and document drafting. The Plan contains many links to other information and makes reference to previously written Pandemic Influenza documents.<sup>2,3</sup> It would be helpful if your agency accesses these documents for user-friendly checklists and forms<sup>4,5</sup> that may prove helpful as your planning gets underway. There is a link to the Memo from the HHS/CDC<sup>6</sup> that includes the directives to the states to develop their state and local plans. Lastly, there links to a couple of newspaper articles<sup>7,8</sup> on the subject that are very comprehensive and also have links to info that may be helpful.

As you are planning and drafting, remember that flexibility should be written into the plan since so much is still in the air, depending on the results of the vaccine trials and which vaccine(s) is/are successful. Some items to consider while preparing to draft a plan are included in a list of *Recommendations for Public Safety*, with some specifically for EMS.

The link below is the Interim Plan for the SARS-CoV-2 virus vaccine to protect from COVID-19. More links to the documents #2-8, including a repeat of Link #1 can be found on the *Links and Resources* page.

<sup>1</sup>**The HHS/CDC Interim Jurisdictional COVID-19 Vaccination Program (Guidance Plan):** [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim\\_Playbook.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/downloads/COVID-19-Vaccination-Program-Interim_Playbook.pdf)